

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** July 5, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on June 28, 2002

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Source Control Remedies Selected/Negotiation Initiated, Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site, Rockford, Illinois**

On June 11, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 Superfund Division Director, William E. Muno, provided co-signature of the third, and expected final, Record of Decision for the Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund site in Rockford, Illinois. With the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) as lead technical agency, the first two site operable units dealt with connections to a clean water supply and the plume of contaminated groundwater as a whole. Operable Unit #3 examines the four leading areas which pose either direct contact problems or may serve as the greatest remaining sources of continuing groundwater contamination. Since the primary contaminants of concern regarding the site are volatile organic compounds, the leading remedial choices selected are soil vapor extraction, air sparging in shallower groundwater management zones, and excavation with thermal desorption.

One of the four areas makes provision for a contingent groundwater remedy in deeper portions of the aquifer if remedial action in the vadose zone and shallower groundwater zone fails to bring about sufficient improvement.

Another of the four areas is under active management by a viable owner/operator. On June 20, 2002, U.S. EPA sent a combination

notice letter/special notice letter along with appropriate enforcement and scope of work attachments, to initiate negotiation concerning source remedial design at this particular area.

Contact: Russell Hart (312-886-4844)

**Administrative Order By Consent (RI/FS), Chemical Recovery Systems, Inc., Elyria, Ohio**

On May 29, 2002, an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) was signed to have the potential responsible parties (PRPs) perform a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) for Chemical Recovery Systems (CRS), Inc., Elyria, Ohio. Twenty-four respondents agreed to perform the RI/FS for the former solvent reclamation facility which is presently characterized as a non-National Priorities List (NPL) equivalent site. CRS is a 4.3 acre facility and is bordered on the western portion on the property by the east branch of the Black River. The site is presently zoned as commercial/industrial property, and is located in an environmental justice area. The remedial investigation for this site is expected to begin during the month of August 2002.

Contact: Gwen Massenburg (312-886-0983)

**Public Meeting, Proposed Plan, Sauget Area 2 Site, St. Clair County, Illinois**

On June 24, 2002, U.S. EPA held a public meeting to discuss the Proposed Plan for an interim groundwater cleanup at the Sauget Area 2 site. The Sauget Area 2 site consists of five inactive disposal sites: Site O, Site P, Site Q, Site R, and Site S within the corporate boundaries of Cahokia, East St. Louis, and Sauget, Illinois. The Proposed Plan identifies the preferred alternative to address the discharge of contaminated groundwater into the Mississippi River in the vicinity of disposal site R. U.S. EPA's preferred remedy consists of the installation of a 3,500 foot long, "U"-shaped, fully penetrating, jet grout barrier wall to be installed between the downgradient boundary of disposal site R and the Mississippi River. Three partially penetrating groundwater recovery wells will be installed inside the "U"-shaped barrier wall to control groundwater discharging to the wall.

The public comment period for the Proposed Plan ends July 17, 2002.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

**Five-year Review Report Completed, University of Minnesota  
(Rosemount Research Center) Superfund Site, Rosemount, Minnesota**

On June 21, 2002, a Five-year Review was signed for the University of Minnesota (Rosemount Research Center) site in Rosemount, Minnesota. The site was inspected in April 2002 and the report was finished in June 2002. Superfund Division Director, William E. Muno, signed the Five-year Review Report on June 21, 2002. This second Five-year Review Report confirms that the remedy remains protective of both human health and the environment.

The University of Minnesota Rosemount site is currently in operation & maintenance under the Record of Decision that was signed in 1986. The groundwater pump and treatment system was shutdown in October 1991.

Contact: Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

**Meeting, Dutch Boy Site, Chicago, Illinois**

On June 12, 2002, Region 5 staff participated in the Advisory Council Meeting for the Dutch Boy & Former West Pullman Works site. Cleanup of lead contamination in residential yards is scheduled to begin in July 2002. U.S. EPA and council members are working together to develop a flyer for the community. The flyer will address the cleanup process and give residents who did not grant U.S. EPA access to their yards and homes another chance to sign access agreements.

Contacts: Janet Pope (312-353-0628)  
Brad Bradley (312-886-4742)

**Public Meeting, Calumet Container Site, Hammond, Indiana**

On June 25-26, 2002, U.S. EPA, the Agency for Toxics Substances and Disease Registry, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the U.S. EPA Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor, attended meetings at the American Legion Post in Hammond, Indiana, and at Chicago State University in Chicago, Illinois, to explain the recent removal assessment at the Calumet Container site. The Calumet Container site is located on both Illinois and Indiana land, however, it has been given an Indiana address. This site has been the subject of removals in calendar years 1982 and 1984. The 2002 removal assessment was due to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) collecting samples in November 2001. Specifically, IDEM collected two surface soil samples and three monitoring well samples and the highest lead soil result was 46,000 parts per million (ppm). In general, the soil cleanup

criteria for lead is 400 ppm in a residential setting and approximately 900 ppm in an industrial setting. A total of 90 people attended the meetings on June 25-26, 2002.

Contacts: Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)  
Janet Pope (312-353-0628)

**Public Meeting, Town of Pines Groundwater Plume Site, Town of Pines, Indiana**

On May 1, 2002, Community Involvement Coordinator Janet Pope facilitated a public availability session in Town of Pines, Indiana. Community residents expressed strong concern about a variety of contaminants found in their drinking wells. Over 100 residents attended the meeting, as did Indiana Department of Public Health, and Indiana Department of Environmental Management Northwest District Office.

Contacts: Janet Pope (312-353-0628)  
Jan Pels (312-886-3009)  
Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)

**Public Meeting, Old American Zinc Plant Site, Fairmont City, Illinois**

On May 22, 2002, the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) community involvement coordinators facilitated a public meeting for the Old American Zinc site in Fairmont City, Illinois. Over 90 residents attended the meeting and asked questions on health and property values. A follow-up assessment at the site found lead levels exceeding U.S. EPA cleanup levels for lead in residential and industrial soil.

Contacts: Janet Pope (312-312-353-0628)  
Rafael Gonzalez (312-886-0269)  
Michael Harris (312-886-0760)  
Bill Ryzek (312-886-7184)

**Civil Investigation, Vincennes Oil Seep Site, Vincennes, Indiana**

On June 12-14, 2002, Civil Investigator Joe Kawecky was in Vincennes, Indiana, investigating the Little League Tar Seep site. A review of County records shows that the property was owned by the City since the early 30's. A local resident who has lived near the field all his life stated that the tar pit was there in the 30's when he was a child. The resident believed the tar was brought in from another location. A review of City historical records could find no company associated with the tar. The investigation will continue.

Contact: Joe Kawecky (312-886-7236)

**Site Orientation (Community Involvement), Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site, Kalamazoo, Michigan**

On May 29, 2002, Coordinator Dave Novak accompanied other Region 5 staff and the potentially responsible parties of the Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for a site orientation. Besides driving to several of the main areas of concern along the 40-80 mile contaminated stretch, the group boarded river craft for a floating tour of portions of the river. Superfund Division Director Bill Muno addressed members of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and others in an evening informational meeting in the community of Allegan. Main topics at the meeting were U.S. EPA's guiding principles affecting contaminated sediment, how Region 5 is going to address the various operating units of the site, and Region 5's timeline for the project.

Contacts: Dave Novak (312-886-7478)  
 Wendy Carney (312-353-6553)  
 Matthew Mankowski (312-886-1842)  
 James Chapman (312-886-7195)  
 Shari Kolak (312-886-6151)  
 Eileen Fury (312-886-7950)

**Reuse Meeting, Northwestern Barrel Superfund Site, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On May 16, 2002, Community Involvement Coordinator Bri Bill participated in the kick-off meeting to discuss reuse options for the Northwestern Barrel (also called Marina Cliffs Dump Barrel) Pre-proposed Superfund site in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The City of South Milwaukee received a Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Grant last year from U.S. EPA to develop a reuse plan for the 13-acre site, the site of a former barrel recycling facility. City planners, a representative from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the property owners, and City officials met with U.S. EPA to outline the challenges and constraints to redevelopment, as well as discuss stakeholder input and next steps.

Contacts: Bri Bill (312-353-6646)  
 Tom Krueger (312-886-0562)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures, Media Attention**

During late April and early May 2002, the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) press team and Superfund's Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) team responded to a variety of

media requests. News releases for a series of outreach seminars for marina operators around the Region led to interview requests, including WDET-FM (NPR) in Detroit, the Port Clinton, Ohio *Beacon*, and the *Sandusky* (Ohio) *Register*. Separately, the editor of *Airport Business* magazine met with the SPCC team and OPA press team concerning the regulatory obligations of small airport operators.

Contacts: Mick Hans (312-353-5050)  
Barb Carr (312-886-7187)  
Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)

### **Ohio River Outfall Survey, Marietta, Ohio**

On June 13, 2002, Sheila Calovich (Oil Planning and Response Section), Nina Yeskis and Jeff Myers (Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support, FIELDS, Team) conducted a outfall survey along a 6 mile stretch of the Ohio River near the Belleville Pool. Other participants of the outfall survey included U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID), U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Five boats were available to conduct the survey which entailed doing a Global Positioning Survey, taking pictures of outfalls, and outfall characterization. West Virginia and Ohio also were able to conduct permit matching during the survey. The results of the survey will be presented at a meeting in Marietta, Ohio, on July 30, 2002.

Contacts: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)  
Nina Yeskis (312-886-0931)

### **Outreach Advisory Board Meeting, Midwest Hazardous Substance Research Center**

On May 15, 2002, Community Involvement Coordinator Bri Bill chaired the first meeting of the Outreach Advisory Board for the Midwest Hazardous Substance Research Center. The Center, housed at Purdue University and funded by a multi-million dollar grant from U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development, is charged with developing remediation technologies and promoting their use. The 10-year grant also includes a large technical assistance and outreach component called the Technical Outreach Services to Communities (TOSC) and Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB). The Outreach Advisory Board provides outreach staff and the Center's director guidance on site/community selection, U.S. EPA program priorities, and effective outreach tools.

Contacts: Bri Bill (312-353-6646)  
Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)  
Steve Ostrodka (312-886-3011)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Brownfields All Pilots Meeting, Chicago, Illinois**

On May 28, 29 and 30, 2002, the Brownfields and Early Action Section hosted the second ever Brownfields All Pilots Conference at the Westin Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The conference was attended by over 60 pilot communities from Region 5. In addition to local government representatives, State Brownfields staff also were provided an opportunity to discuss and comment on the work going on to implement the Brownfields legislation. In addition to the brownfields legislation, topics covered included Site Inventory, Sustainability, Environmental Insurance, Institutional Controls, and Brownfields Prevention. Conference notes and presentation material will be made available on the Brownfields' web page, [www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/), when complete.

Contacts: Deborah Orr (312-886-7575)  
Donna Braden (312-353-7712)

### **Conference, Issues in Assessing and Managing Ecological Risks at Contaminated Sediment Sites**

On June 4-5, 2002, Region 5 Superfund Division hosted the first International Issues in Assessing and Managing Ecological Risks at Contaminated Sediment sites conference. Approximately 150 people attended the conference from the United States and Canada. Representatives attended from Federal agencies, Environment Canada, and the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Virginia, Indiana, and Michigan. Approximately one third of the attendees represented private consulting firms, large corporations and/or academia. The agenda was developed by an intergovernmental steering committee to maximize discussions among the attendees. Bill Muno, Superfund Division Director, gave a welcome presentation on the first day.

All electronic presentations will be made available to each attendee on a CD-ROM, as well as on U.S. EPA's web page. The steering committee met after the meeting and determined next steps including: publication of sediment fact sheets and planning of future ecological risk and sediment meetings.

Several people from Region 5 worked quite diligently on this conference. Region 5 staff that should be recognized include: Pam Gallichio (Visual Information Specialist), Beatriz Guerra (Administrative Officer), Brenda Jones (Ecologist), Edgardo Munoz-Parrilla (Computer Specialist), Jamie Mikrut (Clerk

Typist/Student Aide), and Lorraine Navarette (Clerk Typist/Student Aide).

Contact: Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)

**Quarterly Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee Meetings, Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin and Houghton, Michigan**

On June 18-19, 2002, the quarterly Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) meetings were held in Duluth, Minnesota, and Houghton, Michigan, respectively. The Western Lake Superior PAC is comprised of a wide variety of local (County Directors, Police and Fire Departments), State (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Emergency Management), and Federal (U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA, National Park Service) government representatives. Additional members include local industry and tribal community representatives.

This quarter's agenda included updates from the U.S. Coast Guard on port security operations in Duluth/Superior and from the U.S. EPA on several cleanup sites in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Hancock, Michigan. The U.S. Coast Guard announced that the final version of the Area Contingency Plan would be distributed. State and local representatives reported on upcoming training and exercises in their communities. Local and State reports also included a discussion of the anticipated new response equipment available locally for response to chemical or biological events. Marine Pollution Control presented an overview of the recent large waste oil spill on the Rouge River in Detroit, Michigan. The Duluth PAC meeting featured the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division's involvement in the World Trade Center incident (mapping and GIS systems). The Houghton PAC meeting featured a tabletop exercise discussion and an Incident Command System class presented by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

**Tabletop Exercise, Multi-Agency Response, Oil Spill, Houghton, Michigan**

On June 20, 2002, the Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) participated in a tabletop exercise regarding a several thousand gallon diesel oil spill. Representatives from a wide variety of Federal (National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA), State (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) and local (Houghton and Baraga County Emergency Management, Houghton Police Department) agencies participated in the multi-agency response exercise. Marine Pollution Control, spill response contractor for the National Park Service (NPS), also participated in the exercise. The tabletop scenario involved the collision of the Ranger III passenger vessel (owned and operated by the NPS)



with the Houghton Lift Bridge. The collision resulted in the spill of several thousand gallons of diesel fuel to the area waterways. Exercise participants implemented the Incident Command System for the exercise, and simulated the protection of human health and the environment. Oil collection activities and protective booming strategies were discussed and simulated. Logistical challenges such as access to local emergency services were also discussed at length.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

### **Leadership Forum, Chicago, Illinois**

On June 20, 2002, Deborah Orr was a panelist at the Leadership Forum Series hosted by the Office of Applied Innovations (OAI). The participants worked on strategies designed to increase hiring of job training and minority worker training graduates among the environmental contractors in the Chicagoland area. The forum series was hosted by the Southland Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from South Suburban Mayors and Managers, environmental contractors, and the Illinois Department of Human Services attended. OAI is the recipient of both job training and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) grant funds from U.S. EPA.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

### **Meeting, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) Source Water Protection, Cincinnati, Ohio**

On June 11, 2002, Sheila Calovich (Oil Planning and Response Section), along with Richard Garcia of the Great Lakes Commission, made a presentation on the Region 5 Inland Sensitivity Atlases to Source Water Protection personnel from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and Kentucky Division of Water. The atlases could aid in the development of protection strategies for drinking water sources.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

### **Emergency & Enforcement Support Section Volunteer Nature Workday, Mayslake Forest Preserve, Oak Brook, Illinois**

On June 20, 2002, the Emergency and Enforcement Support Section (EESS) participated in a Team Building Program presented by the Wheaton Park District at the Mayslake Forest Preserve. The course consisted of several group exercises which represented the solving of physical challenges, such as crossing a pretend "river" using pads as "stepping stones". The instructor then pointed out to the group the methods it had used to solve the

problem, the groups' thought process, and better ways the group might think about approaching problem-solving in the future.

EESS was then treated to a tour of the 39-room Peabody Mansion, which is in the process of being restored by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPD) volunteers. The mansion was built in 1919 by Francis Peabody, the owner of the Peabody Coal Company, and is complete with a secret passage that was built for Mr. Peabody to escape from potentially angry coal workers.

The afternoon was spent doing a group brush-cutting volunteer session for the FPD. A large overgrown prairie with a wetland was cleared of buckthorn and other invasive species to restore the area to its original condition. EESS braved 98° temperatures with cutters and saws to create a towering pile of cut brush and trees which will later be burned. The FPD Corporate Volunteer Program was a great way for EESS members to make a hands-on environmental contribution which could be seen after the workday was finished. The day was also excellent for the comradery of EESS. Section members were very enthusiastic about the work, and are planning on an additional volunteer event in the Fall.

Contacts: Debbie Regel (312-353-7632)  
Maureen Spradlin (630-933-7200)

**Presentation, H. R. McCall School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class, Waukegan, Illinois**

On May 29, 2002, Superfund Division employees Pam Gallichio (Visual Information Specialist), Keith Lesniak (Emergency Responder), and Brenda Jones (Ecologist) made a two-hour presentation to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at H.R. McCall School, Waukegan, Illinois. The overall topic of the presentation was "What I do at Work." Ms. Gallichio discussed what a graphic designer does in the Superfund Division. She also brought along examples of her work including pamphlets, posters, CDs, and other graphic designs she has done. Ms. Jones told the class what an ecologist does with the Agency. She discussed how plants and animals can be exposed to contaminants either through direct contact or through eating contaminated food. She also brought along some of the gear she uses in her job to collect biological samples. Lastly, Mr. Lesniak came out dressed as "Captain Decon" in level A protective gear. This was to show the children the importance of adequate health and safety protection, as well as to show them some of the processes the Agency uses to enter a site safely. The kids unanimously thought Captain Decon was "cool."

Contacts: Pam Gallichio (312-886-0386)  
Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)  
Keith Lesniak (312-886-7189)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**Words of Thanks, Maumee Watershed Briefing, Chicago, Illinois**

In a e-mail, dated June 28, 2002, David Cowgill, Chief, Technical Assistance and Analysis Branch, Great Lakes National Program Office, expressed thanks to Peggy Schwebke, Doug Zamastil, Vivian Aviles, and Michael Gifford as follows:

"Peggy, et al.:

Thank you for all of your help in gathering information about the Maumee watershed for the briefing of Congresswoman Kaptur that Dan O'Riordan and I participated in on Wednesday. Everything went well, by the way, and EPA has no follow-up actions resulting from the briefing.

I realize that "fire drills" can be frustrating when they are yours; but even more so when they are someone else's. Superfund really came through for us on this one, with a really short fuse. We went to the meeting well-prepared because of your help, and that of Vivian, Doug and Michael. I especially appreciated your follow-up call to see if I had any questions about the information provided (which I did!).

Thanks to all!"

Contacts: Peggy Schwebke (312-353-9309)  
Vivian Aviles (312-353-0324)  
Doug Zamastil (312-886-0650)  
Mike Gifford (312-886-7257)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
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Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
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